



Name of Project: “Project Out” – Wyoming’s Nursing Home Transition Program

Name of Organization: The Resource Center—Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation, Casper, Wyoming

Choices for Independence Principle: Empowerment/Access to Information, Consumer Direction/Offering More Choices to High Risk Individuals

Description:

Wyoming’s vision for older adults and persons with disabilities is that they have the opportunity to fully participate in all aspects of community life, and are able to maintain their health and independence. Project Out, a program of Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation (WILR), a non-profit agency, provides people with severe disabilities the opportunity to secure their highest possible level of personal independence. Project Out is designed to assist nursing home residents who choose to transition to the community and to divert Wyoming residents from entering nursing homes. Since the program began with a grant in September of 2002, 208 people have transitioned from nursing homes to the community. The annual savings to Medicaid per consumer is \$15,824. The total Medicaid savings since the project began is \$6,486,503.

Key partners involved in this effort include the South Dakota Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Department of Family Services, the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, the Social Security Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Veterans Affairs, Medicaid, the Aging Division, Meals on Wheels, transportation providers, housing authorities, home health agencies, nursing homes, personal care attendants, senior center and assisted-living facilities.

The key criteria for the Project Out Program are that the individual must be in Medicaid or Medicaid eligible, must have a significant physical or mental disability, and there must be a reasonable expectation that transition services may enable the individual to make significant movement toward greater personal independence in family or community. Project Out’s ultimate goal is to ensure that services and supports are provided to maintain the highest quality of life for an individual returning to the community.

For more information about Wyoming’s Project Out, contact Ken Hoff or Jim Raye at 307-266-6956 or by email at khoff@wilr.org or jraye@wilr.org The website for Project Out is: www.wilr.org/program/html